

JDW,LF The Watergate Caper/The NYTimes/The Department of Misinformation 8/13/72 Weisbeg

I've just had a call from Mexico City, from a good reporter friend who is helping another reporter who is engaged by the NYTimes (Rugaber) for local investigation-Research on this operation. Prime interest I could not answer and I've seen no reporting: who signed the ~~checks~~ checks cashed in Mexcio in the name of the old lawyer. In going through files I noted something I'd intended to memo and forgot, the undefinitive denial of Alejandro, son of the lawyer, which is carefully limited to knowing Hunt AFTER his CIA connection, FOR the period of White House consultancy only. My hunch is that Hunt arranged the Mexican financial end, one way or another. My friend's hunch is that the Times is engaged in a contrivance to hide the whole thing, to obfuscate. One of the (think spurious) angles is the involvement of Mexican sugar-interest money. I have made this offer to be made to the Times: I'll help for pay and have things that can interest and can direct to things that can be revelant and Rugaber can come here. I've asked for friend's friend's rundown on his integrity and intentions, so any knowledge of his reporting would be of interest. I don't expect Times to touch me except if they can find another knife. But I also can't ignore the possibility that they may really be looking for the truth. I think it is really may be possible and the seemingly wierdo Mexican angles are a sign of desperation in getting nowhere. I have also suggested as a means of overcoming the tight government control of the Mexican press that the idea be suggested that in this dirty business the Mexcians are clean and are being used as fall guys, what I believe to be probable save for such things as someone using the name of the old man in the check deal, a few nobodies in any real measurement being involved in conscious dirty work, but the government and all those, dependable, honest and incorruptible Mexican institutions like the banks are pure and run by Misters Clean only. Far out, but the suggestion will be made to a paper. Such an approach might apply some pressures, even if only wire-service stories on what appears there, and from my knowledge of one bureau chief, the chances of that wire handling are nil. But if I have copies I can supply to several papers. Hastily,